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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: June 11, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Callahan

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Assistant Attorney General Stephen J. Pollak, Civil Rights Division, called and stated he had been reviewing reports very carefully which had been submitted in this case. He referred specifically to the interview at the Bushnell Company on April 5, 1968, with reference to a shipment of binoculars to the York Arms Company in Memphis. It was specifically indicated that the serial numbers had not been recorded by the firm. He said the report concerning the binoculars is important because they would like to be able to tie in more specifically the binoculars to the York Company by serial number if possible. He recognized that in this instance the Bushnell Company apparently does not record the serial numbers of their shipments. He wondered if there was any other record which might be in existence to reflect that serial numbers were recorded by the firm. I advised him this had been completely run out; that I would recheck with our Memphis Office. He would like to back up the witnesses who say the binoculars in question were sold to the subject.

Pollak wanted to know whether we were running out all allegations relating to possible conspiracy. He said the reports do not reflect any information concerning a possible conspiracy. He was advised that so far we have not been able to establish that there was any conspiracy and we have been constantly alert to this possibility. Any allegations or possible leads that might be covered to establish a conspiracy existed are being given preferred attention.

He said there were some allegations in the New York Times about persons who might have known or been in contact with Ray when he was in Canada. I advised him that such allegations are also being run out. These allegations refer to a Chinese woman who says a fat man was in contact with the subject, to a Negro go-go girl, to waiters, etc. The Legat at Ottawa has been furnished this information for immediate attention.

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6 JUN 1968

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

Pollak mentioned that he would like to be able to have experts identify the photograph of James Earl Ray which depicts Ray with his eyes closed (photograph which Bureau artists drew in eyes later) with a known photograph of Ray. He particularly mentioned the Missouri State fingerprint card taken of Ray back in 1960. He said this would be helpful in supporting any affidavits of identification which might have been based upon looking at the photograph which the Bureau disseminated of Ray. He said that if our experts could state that the photograph which the Bureau disseminated was the same individual who appears in the Missouri prison print, this might be introduced as evidence from an expert witness showing that the picture was identical with a known photograph of Ray.

This matter has been referred to the Laboratory and Exhibits Section of the Administrative Division for consideration.

The Department has prepared drafts of affidavits for execution by certain individuals. We have previously been furnished these drafts on June 10, 1968, and they were called to your attention. Two individuals mentioned, namely, Charles Quitman Stephens, who resides in Memphis, Tennessee, has been out of pocket and he has not been located as yet. They are continuing to look for him so the Department may contact him for the purpose of getting him to sign the affidavits which they have prepared. Stephens is the individual who saw a side view of the subject when he resided in the rooming house in Memphis. This was the rooming house from which the subject fired at King.

We are also looking for John Webster Deshazo, who was a customer at the Aeromarine Supply Company in Birmingham, Alabama, where the gun was purchased. He identified a photograph of the subject as the person who purchased the gun. Deshazo is on vacation in Colorado. We are presently looking for him.

ACTION:

The above is for your information.